

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:RRSTRAND:OSM

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EB/OIA:MR. SMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 099211

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ABLD, AFSP, CG

SUBJECT: ALHADEFF HOUSES

REF: A) KINSHASA 3141; B) KINSHASA 2205

1. AS EXPLAINED IN SEPTTEL ON PROPERTIES DISCUSSED REF (B), L AND EB HAVE RAISED OBJECTIONS TO BACK-DATING OF LEASES OR OTHER ACTIONS THAT MAY BE CONTRARY TO US OR ZAIRIAN LAW. DEPT UNABLE JUDGE PROPOSAL MADE REF (A) UNTIL RELEVANT INFO REQUESTED SEPTTEL IS RECEIVED AND OBJECTIONS RAISED BY L AND EB HAVE BEEN RESOLVED.

2. BEYOND CONCERNS STATED ABOVE, DEPT IS UNCLEAR HOW EMBASSY WOULD INTEND HANDLE TRANSACTION IF GOZ CONFIRMS TAKEOVER OF ALHADEFF PROPERTIES. IF EMBASSY OR ALHADEFF REPS WERE THEN TO BRING SALE DOCUMENTS TO GOZ ATTENTION, QUESTION WOULD NATURALLY ARISE AS TO WHY TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP HAD NOT BEEN MADE KNOWN AT TIME OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATEUR DELEGUE, MARCH 15, OR AT LEAST IN FIRST DISCUSSION BETWEEN PRESIDENCY AND ALHADEFF

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REPS ABOUT WHICH OF THE ALHADEFF PROPERTIES WERE AFFECTED BY

GOZ ACTION. PRESUME EMBASSY AND MANN HAVE CONSIDERED THIS AND POSSIBILITY OF ADVERSE EFFECT OF TRANSPARENT BACKDATING ON BOTH USG AND ALHADEFF INTERESTS. PLEASE ADVISE.

3. IF ACCEPTABLE MEANS CAN BE FOUND TO TRANSFER OWNERSHIP TO USG, THERE IS GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT FUNDS NTE DOLLARS 500,000 COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR ACQUISITION OF TWELVE ALHADEFF PROPERTIES. EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS THIS AMOUNT NOW WITH ALHADEFFS AS POSSIBLE PURCHASE PRICE IF AND WHEN TRANSACTION IN ACCEPTABLE FORM IS AGREED UPON. FYI: DEPT FORESEES NO OTHER POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING FUNDS FOR LUMP SUM PURCHASE FOR MANY YEARS TO COME AND WOULD NOT WISH TO BUY ON INSTALLMENT PLAN BASIS. SINCE ALHADEFF REPORTEDLY BOUGHT PROPERTIES FOR GREATLY REDUCED PRICES FROM DEPARTING OWNERS, ESTATE MIGHT NOT BE RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT THIS OFFER UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. END FYI. EMBASSY MAY ADVISE LOWEST NEGOTIATED PRICE POSSIBLE IF ABOVE TERMS NOT ACCEPTABLE, BUT DEPT CANNOT ASSURE ADDITIONAL FUNDS WOULD BE AVAILABLE. KISSINGER

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